

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: T. NAKAMINAMI et al
 Serial No. 09/523,382
 Filed: March 10, 2000

Group Art Unit: 2155
 Examiner: L. Wang
 For: METHOD FOR CONTROLLING A
 DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM

22389 U.S. PTO
 10/646845
 08/25/03

REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION APPLICATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)

Commissioner for Patents
 Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

This is a request for filing a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) of pending prior application Serial No. 09/523,382, filed on March 10, 2000, entitled METHOD FOR CONTROLLING A DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM, by the inventor named in the prior application.

1. Enclosed is a copy of the prior application, including the Declaration as originally filed.

2. The Filing Fee is calculated below:

CLAIMS AS FILED IN THE PRIOR APPLICATION
LESS ANY CLAIMS CANCELED BY AMENDMENT BELOW
PLUS ANY CLAIMS ADDED BY ACCOMPANYING PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|---|----|-----------|
| Basic Fee | | | | | | | | | | \$ 750.00 |
| Total Claims | 5 | - | 20 | = | 0 | x | 18 | = | \$ | .00 |
| Independent Claims | 2 | - | 3 | = | 0 | x | 84 | = | \$ | .00 |
| Total Filing Fee | | | | | | | | | | \$ 750.00 |

3. A Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$750.00 is enclosed to cover the Filing Fee.

4. Cancel claims 2 and 4 before calculating the Filing Fee. A Preliminary Amendment is submitted herewith.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417. A duplicate copy of this Request is enclosed for this purpose.

6. Amend the specification by inserting, before the first line:

This is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No.
09/523,382, filed March 10, 2000.

7. New drawings are enclosed, twenty-nine (29) sheets, Figs. 1-45.

8. The power of attorney is set forth in the Declaration in the prior application or an associate power of attorney is hereby granted to:

Jeffrey M. Ketchum, Registration No. 31,174
Shrinath Malur, Registration No. 34,663
John R. Mattingly, Registration No. 30,293
Daniel J. Stanger, Registration No. 32,846
Gene W. Stockman, Registration No. 21,021.

There is a change in the correspondence address.

Address all future correspondence to:

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120

Please associate this application with Customer No. 24956.

9. The prior application is assigned to Hitachi, Limited.

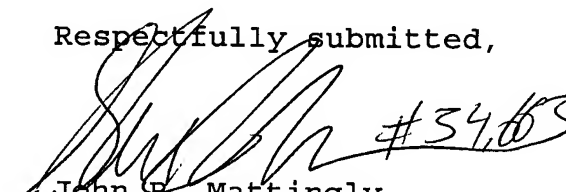
10. Priority of the following Japanese patent application is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119:

No. 11-070623, filed March 16, 1999.

The certified priority document has been filed in the parent application.

The undersigned hereby declares that no matter contained in the specification, including the claims, and drawings filed in the present continuation application would have been new matter in the prior application Serial No. 09/523,382, as originally filed on March 10, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

 #34,63
John R. Mattingly
Registration No. 30,293
Attorney of Record

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Date: August 25, 2003

LIST OF INVENTORS' NAMES AND ADDRESSES

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